

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 8-50 were pending in this application. Claim 11 has been canceled. Claim 51 is newly added. Hence, claims 1-6 and 8-10, and 12-51 are now pending in this application.

Amendments

Dependent claim 11 has been canceled and the subject matter therein has been incorporated into independent claim 1.

Dependent claim 7, previously canceled and incorporated into independent claim 1, has now been restored as dependent claim 51, the subject matter being correspondingly removed from independent claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9-10 and 32-50.

Claims 11 and 29-30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Arguments in Support of the Claims

Applicant acknowledges the withdrawal of the allowability of the subject matter previously incorporated into independent claim 1 from claim 7 (which was canceled as a result). *Office Action, Section 6.* This subject matter is now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,428,485 (Rho) in view of US Patent No. 6,168,563 (Brown) and further in view of US Patent No. 7,149,684 (Ahroon).

Applicant respectfully continues to strongly disagree with the Examiner's rejection of independent claim 1 based on Rho, Brown, and now Ahroon for at least the reasons stated in

previous responses. Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this application, independent claim 1 has now been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 11 (which has been canceled as a result). Accordingly, Applicant again respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection against independent claim 1. The subject matter previously incorporated into independent claim 1 from claim 7 has now been removed to new dependent claim 51.

As for dependent claims 2-6, 10, and 12-31, although they may recite independently allowable subject matter, these claims depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 9 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the pending claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-51 are in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issuance. If there are any questions or if additional information is needed, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned via the information indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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